SUBJECTS.

135. *Sale of stamps.*

The same member further represented—

that abuses prevailed in the sale of stamps owing to the low rate of discount allowed to licensed stamp vendors. They demanded a higher price for the stamps they sold, for instance, two chuckrams for every one anna stamp. Frequently the vendors said that stamps were not available. He requested that this might be remedied.

Dewan's reply.—Will be enquired into.

136. *Exemption of suits arising out of settlement decisions from Court-fees and stamps.*

Mr. N. Madhavan Pillai (Member, Neyyattinkara Taluk) requested that legal proceedings and suits arising out of decisions in the Revenue Settlement might be exempted from the provisions of the Court-Fees and Stamp Regulations as in the case of proceedings under the Land Acquisition Regulation.

Mr. Madhavan Tampi (Member, Kalkulam Taluk) supported the request.

137. *Opinion of the Assembly-that the new Settlement scheme is a sound one and is conceived in the best interests of the ryot population.*

In connection with this subject he wanted permission to speak on behalf of the Assembly and give expression to the sentiments of the Assembly as a whole in regard to the representations made on the previous day by the member for Changanacheri about the subject of appeals from decisions in Settlement registration enquiries being revived. The members, he said, were unanimous in thinking that the representations of Mr. C. Raghava Menon were ill-considered and did not convey the sense of the Assembly. Far from thinking that appeals should be revived, the sense of the landholding population was that the present rules were conceived in the best interests of the people and were calculated to give them speedy justice and that the ryots had every reason to be satisfied with the decisions of the new Registering officers. The extremely few cases in which reviews have been applied for as stated in the Address bore testimony to the fact that the recent procedure had given the people every satisfaction. No inconvenience or hardship was being experienced under the new system. Individual cases of hardship there might be, but they could be easily remedied. He said that, from what he had learned, he was in a position to say that there were not many civil suits filed last year. The representations of the member who spoke on the subject the day before were based on a misconception as to the value of a pattah which only showed the person who was liable to pay the tax. Considering the expenditure, loss of time and hardship which the old system necessarily involved, the new scheme was a great boon to the people.

The Very Rev. Eipe Thoma Kathanar (Member, Thiruvella Taluk) supported the request and observed that no change was called for in the new Settlement scheme.

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly

SUBJECTS.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestion to exempt suits arising out of Settlement proceedings from the provisions of the Court-fees and Stamp Regulations is noted and will receive every consideration.

138. Abolition of Adiyara for Santis.

Mr. P. Raman Tampi (Member, Trivandrum Taluk) said that every *Santi* in a temple was required to deposit an *Adiyara* which he forfeited under all conditions, even if as the highest bidder he succeeded in getting the much coveted place. The monthly salary of a *Santi* was a pittance hardly equal to the amount he could obtain if he lent the sum he had paid as *Adiyara* on interest. The *Santi* accordingly made good the difference from the allowances for the daily and periodical offerings and other religious rites. He converted his duties as officiator in temples into a regular business concern. That was a debasing spectacle. Government would be neglecting their duty and disregarding their legal and moral obligations as trustee of Devaswom affairs, if they permitted the perpetuation of a practice on the vicious effects of which there could not be two opinions. He therefore requested that the practice of levying *Adiyara* from *Santis* might be abolished.

Mr. Chithrannal Tampuran (Member, Nominated) spoke in support of the request.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

139. Compulsory registration of Vital Statistics.

Mr. V. A. Ramakrishna Aiyer (Member, Town Improvement Committee, Trivandrum) advocated the compulsory registration of Vital Statistics and explained that a correct collection of births and deaths in Towns was necessary for taking measures to improve the conditions of life, for rightly judging the effects of scarcity, commercial depression, epidemic disease, emigration and immigration upon the prosperity of the community and the influence of professions, trades and locality on its well-being, and for watching the effects of particular sanitary measures.

The same member also urged—

140. Compulsory Vaccination.

that vaccination should be made compulsory. He said that reliance upon sanitary precautions was ineffectual against small-pox and explained that of the three methods for its prevention, namely, isolation and disinfection, inoculation and vaccination, the last was the most efficacious.

Dewan's reply.—Will be noted.

141. Payment of duty on tobacco into bankshalls.

Mr. Kochu Hassan Kunju (Member, Merchants of Quilon) requested that the Superintendents of Tobacco bankshalls might be asked to receive the duty on tobacco from the wholesale merchants and remit the same into the Taluk Treasuries as in the case of Salt bank-

LIBRARY ARCHIVES Kerala Legislative Assembly